

Five Things on a Friday – COP28

by Beth Cunningham

Take a look to find out about COP28, the work around this and what can be done to help..

An intro to COP28



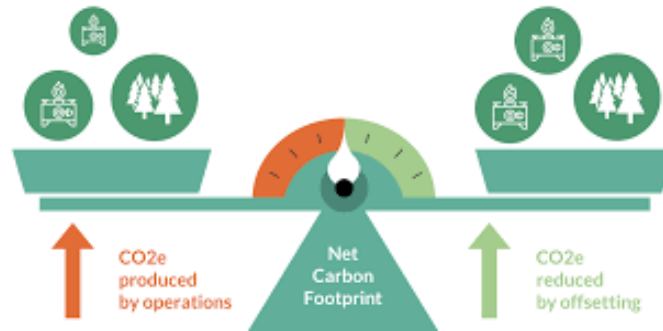
The 2023 UN Climate Change Conference is happening from Thursday 30 November to Tuesday 12 December 2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), marking the 28th meeting of the **Conference of the Parties (COP 28)**;

This year, the conference will conclude the first **“global stocktake”**: assessing progress on **Paris Agreement goals**. In the words of COP28 President, Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber (Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology and UAE Special Envoy for Climate Change), this will:

- Fast-track the energy transition and slashing emissions before 2030;
- Transform climate finance, by delivering on old promises and setting the framework for a new deal on finance;
- Put nature, people, lives, and livelihoods at the heart of climate action; and;
- Mobilise for the most inclusive COP ever.

Find out more about this year's conference on the COP28 website [here](#)

COP21: The Paris Agreement



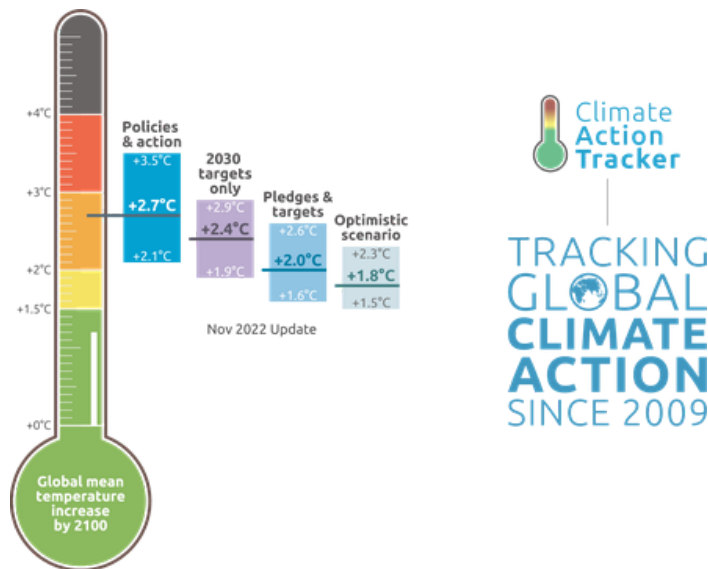
What is the Paris Agreement? The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate action, which was negotiated at COP21 in 2015, with a total current membership of 195 Parties (194 States plus the European Union).

Some key aims of the [treaty](#) are:

1. To limit the global temperature increase, compared to pre-industrial (1900s) temperatures, to **well below 2 degrees Celsius**, while pursuing efforts to **limit the increase to 1.5 degrees**.
2. Global Net Zero CO2 equivalent emissions, by 2050
 - a. Greenhouse gases (eg. CO2, methane) trap solar heat energy in the atmosphere,
 - b. Net Zero emissions means that amount of CO2 equivalent emissions produced by human activity is equal to the amount being absorbed by our ecosystems
 - c. The burning of fossil fuels accounts for 90% of global CO2 emissions.
3. Provide financing to developing countries to mitigate climate change
 - a. Right now, communities in the 'Global South' are bearing the worst impacts of climate change, despite being the least responsible for CO2 equivalent emissions.

Learn more about the [Global Carbon Budget](#).

Criticisms of UN Climate Change Conference



Despite the commitments governments have made, we are not seeing the necessary action required to meet these goals.

Paris Agreement in the UK

The UK Government is promoting its 'Net Zero Carbon 2050' strategy as the solution to the climate emergency, but the UK's fair share of the Paris-compliant global carbon budget runs out in 3 years, and this means urgent, radical action now.

The UK needs to make urgent radical emission cuts of over 20% per year to comply with its Paris Agreement commitments, since the UK's per capita share of the residual global CO₂ budget for 1.5°C runs out at the end of 2024 (CarbonIndependent.org).

Learn more about the economic interests fighting against climate action:

[COP28: UAE planned to use climate talks to make oil deals - BBC News](#)

[Who wants what out of COP28](#)

What Can We Do?



It's easy to feel overwhelmed and powerless in the face of the climate crisis and the lack of significant government action, but there are some ways we as individuals can impact our wider environment and community.

[Switch your banking provider](#)

Since the Paris Agreement was signed, banks have invested over £4.4 trillion into the fossil fuel industry. Your personal bank account is worth **£1.5million** to your bank, so by switching to a bank without fossil fuel investments, you've instantly created a significant divestment from the industry.

[Eat more sustainably](#)

The livestock and animal-based products industry accounts for at least 32,000 million tons of CO2 emissions per year. Every day that you eat a more vegan diet, you can reduce that by 9kg!

[Fly less, Travel well](#)

Domestic UK flights cause roughly 8 times the CO2 emissions than their equivalent. Avoiding a single long distance return flight cuts emissions by an average of 1.9 tonnes. That's equivalent to driving a [typical EU car](#) more than 16,000km from [Hamburg, Germany to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia](#) and back.

Taking action to achieve net zero by 2030: University Panel Q&A



[Sign up](#) to attend the “Taking action to achieve net zero by 2030: a deeper delve into our plan” delivered by the University next **Monday 4 December**, from **4.30-5:40pm in the Esther Simpson 1.01**.

Continuing the conversation around climate change, this interactive hybrid event will share our progress against key milestones and invite discussion on the topics that matter most to our University community.

If you are unable to attend in person, there is the option to join online via Microsoft Teams. Find out more about the event [here](#).

Open to staff and students. Refreshments will be available for in-person attendees at the end.

[Health, Safety & Wellbeing Resources](#) | [Employee Assistance Program](#)